

TPW



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

MASAHIKO KUBOTA ET AL.

Application No.: 10/614,029

Filed: July 8, 2003

For: LIQUID DISCHARGE HEAD AND
METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING
RECORDING HEAD

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Examiner: A. Do
Group Art Unit: 2853
October 26, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action dated September 29, 2004.

In the Office Action, it was alleged that the inventions of Group I (Claims 1-11), drawn to “a liquid discharge head,” classified in class 347, subclass 61, and Group II (Claims 12-14), drawn to “a method of manufacturing a liquid discharge head,” classified in class 430, subclass 320, are distinct because the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different products and the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the two groups of claims are closely related and that a proper search of any of the claims of one group would likely include a search of the claims of the other group. Thus, it is submitted that all of the claims can be searched simultaneously and that a duplicative search with possibly inconsistent results may occur if the restriction requirement is maintained. Therefore, in the interest of economy, both for the Office and Applicants, withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully solicited.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.143, Applicants provisionally elect the claims of Group I, namely, Claims 1-11.

Due consideration and prompt passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. Office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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